

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

A Replacement Sheet is attached which includes a clean version of amended FIG. 1B.

FIG. 1B is amended to correct a typographical error to reference symbol **10b**.

REMARKS

The Office Action contends that examination of the pending claims is to be restricted to either Group I, method claims 1-14, or Group II, device claims 15-22, because the groups represent distinct inventions. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement. The characterization that the claims of Group I and II are distinct is not accurate because the subject matter of the claims are connected in at least one of design, operation, or effect. In the present instance, both Group I and II are directed to techniques for limiting oxygen delivery to non-targeted tissue during illumination.

Nonetheless, Applicants elect Group I with traverse.

The Office Action also imposes a species election with respect to Group I between species i), utilization of nitrogen gas, and ii), utilization of vacuum. Accordingly, Applicants select species ii). The pending claims that read upon species ii) of Group I are claims 1-3 and 6-14.


Applicants reserve all rights and believe the generic claims are in condition for allowance, rendering the species election moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks above, Applicant submits the claims are in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone the undersigned in the event that such communication might expedite prosecution of this matter.

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Respectfully submitted,

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